

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 7 AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Prepared especially for State Extension Directors  
By the OPA  
Issued by Extension Service USDA

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
★ SEP 28 1942 ★  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

A "rollback" in prices for standard quality canned tomatoes and peas at the canner level featured OPA's activities of primary moment to the farmer last week.

CANNED TOMATOES AND PEAS

Price Administrator Leon Henderson indicated that OPA shortly would remove the provisions in Maximum Price Regulation No. 152 (Canned Vegetables), which allowed canners of No. 2 U. S. Grade C or better canned tomatoes and No. 2 U. S. Grade C or better canned peas to charge on sales to the trade the Department of Agriculture support prices for these articles if price determined under the OPA formula turns out to be less than such support prices. It is estimated that elimination of this provision will result in an average ceiling price of approximately 92 cents a dozen for tomato canners and \$1.05 a dozen for peas. The Department of Agriculture support level is 95 cents a dozen on tomatoes and \$1.10 for peas. However, it is stated that certified canners only - namely, those who buy their raw materials at support prices and who are certified by their State agricultural war boards - may continue to sell to the Department at the higher support levels (OPA release 458).

FRUIT AND BERRIES

OPA formally announced its canned fruit and berry regulation, lifting wholesale and retail price ceilings between 15 and 25 percent above their prevailing March levels (OPA-443).

MEAT

The "big three" of the meat packing industry - Armour & Co., Swift & Co., and Wilson & Co. - have agreed to audit sales records of all their branch offices for the purpose of refunding to their customers all charges made in excess of OPA maximum prices for beef and pork (OPA-435).

OIL LOIN PAPERS

Oil loin papers, used mainly by packers in packaging large parcels of meat, now are under provisions of the Industrial and Converted Paper Products Regulation (OPA-390).

FISH

Packers of frozen, pickled, smoked, salt and canned fish - buying their halibut and salmon at exorbitantly high prices in mistaken anticipation of a 15 percent increase shortly in the OPA's ceiling on the processed article - are in for a rude disappointment, Price Administrator Henderson warned (OPA-462).

(1) OPA will make no increase in present March 1942 ceilings. (2) The ceiling on processed fish will continue for the length of the General Maximum Price Regulation under which it is covered. (3) Individual applications of fish processors for relief, on grounds that they have incurred losses through sales at March ceilings because of higher raw material costs, will be rejected by OPA.

#### FATS AND OILS

All sales of fat-bearing and oil-bearing animal waste materials, with two exceptions, now will be covered by the General Maximum Price Regulation. Sales of waste materials by the Army and Navy and sales of fallen animals will continue to be free from price control (OPA-434).

#### SUGAR

A simplified system has been announced of issuing Sugar Purchase Certificates to industrial users who make numerous deliveries to certain exempt Government agencies (OPA-447). Instead of requiring an industrial user to present receipts of each delivery made, local war price and rationing boards may accept other evidence of the deliveries.

#### FARM TRACTORS

Makers of farm tractors and other farm equipment have been provided with a formula for calculating ceiling prices on models in which there have been design or construction changes since March 31, 1942 (OPA-T-31).

#### "BLACK MARKET"

An immediate OPA investigation is being made of reported "black market" purchases of steel to be used in construction of a shipyard at Michaud, La. (OPA-466).

#### FEATHERS AND DOWN

OPA is considering a reduction in current prices for all grades of feathers and down (OPA-442). This word of warning was issued to some sellers who are holding back stocks in anticipation of higher prices in sales to the armed forces.

#### SLICED AND PEELED APPLES

Sliced and peeled apples have been exempted from the General Maximum Price Regulation, mainly because of the raw material squeeze on processors (OPA-441).

#### LUMBER

A maximum price regulation has been issued for numerous wood products which are made by turning or shaping lumber to a pattern on a cutting machine - such as tool handles, wagon spokes, and tent pins (OPA-446).

The California counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma have been eliminated from the geographical area covered by Maximum Price Regulation No. 26 (Douglas Fir and Other West Coast Lumber) (OPA-T-29).

## COTTON PRODUCTS

Transactions to which Maximum Price Regulation No. 157 (Sales and Fabrication of Textiles, Apparel, and Related Items for Military Purposes) applies are limited to those directly and immediately related to the war procurement program for textiles, apparel, and similar articles (OPA-401).

Cents-per-yard ceilings for Army specification of 7-1/2 ounce fully shrunk cotton drill were announced by OPA, in coöperation with the Quartermaster Corps (OPA-450).

## FUELS

Persons who purchase miscellaneous solid fuels, not in the course of trade or business, but for home consumption are not required to keep records of such transactions (OPA-414).

OPA issued a temporary schedule of maximum rates for barge shipments of coal to New York and New England, and at the same time adjusted existing machinery to enable the Government's absorption of any increase in shipping charges (OPA-451).

Ceiling prices of a number of coal mining companies were adjusted upward, correcting situations in instances where seven companies had established maximum prices which did not permit the return of representative production costs as they were prior to the date the OPA regulation was issued, and cases of six companies in which realization under maximum prices is substantially below that of October 1941, the base period used in Maximum Price Regulation No. 120 (OPA-T-35).

## RELIEF

United Grocery Co. of Irvington, N. J., was granted relief on 153 commodities ranging from anchovies to White Eagle Chips (T-649). Concern is a low-margin, efficient wholesale grocer operating on a 4½ percent over cost margin, as compared with the average wholesaler's 9 to 10 percent over cost margin for successful operation.

Loudon Packing Co. of Terre Haute, Ind., was granted the right to charge \$1.53 per dozen for 18-ounce cans of "V-8 Cocktail," a combination of tomato juice containing no more than 30 percent other vegetable juices. This is a new size, which previously had not been packed by that company (OPA-T-32).

Maximum retail prices for two premium brands of passenger car tires made by the United States Rubber Co. have been increased to bring them into line with those generally set for competitive tires (OPA-T-26).

## MILK

A ceiling has been placed on sales at wholesale of fluid milk and cream in bottles or paper containers at the distributor's highest March 1942 sales level (OPA-449).

## SCRAP RUBBER

Limited conditions were outlined under which premium prices above ceiling levels still may be paid for large quantity deliveries of scrap rubber to consumers (OPA-402).

## AUTOMOBILES

Persons needing new passenger automobiles for experimental purposes related to the war effort or who plan to rebuild them for purposes approved by OPA have been added to the list of eligibles in the rationing regulations (OPA-426).

OPA announced two changes in its automobile rationing regulations to facilitate purchases of new cars needed by State and local government agencies for replacement of equipment worn beyond the point of efficiency and for the services developing as part of the war effort (OPA-454).

## TANK TRUCKS

Effective date for price ceilings on transportation by tank trucks and other common carriers has been extended from August 1 to September 1 in order to obtain additional truck facilities for transporting petroleum products (OPA-448).

## PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Buyers of a business involving petroleum or petroleum products must conform to the maximum prices established by the former owner (OPA-461).

OPA defined relationship of prices charged for petroleum products under contract deliveries last fall to the maximum prices which may be charged by sellers to purchasers of the same general class under the revised price schedule (OPA-440).

## GASOLINE

Maximum gasoline prices along the Eastern Seaboard were reduced  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents per gallon on August 5 (OPA-455). Simultaneously, reductions of 9/10 cent per gallon for kerosene, 1.1 cents a gallon on distillates and light heating oils, and 15 cents per barrel on residual fuel oils were made.

Questions and answers were issued based on queries concerning gasoline rationing since the coupon plan went into effect July 22 (OPA-432).

Gasoline rationing regulations cannot be modified at this time to give salesmen preferred mileage classification in view of the increasingly grave petroleum transportation shortage (OPA-453).

Registration for gasoline rationing in the seven western New York counties was begun on August 10 (OPA-452).

A map has been issued showing the Eastern gasoline rationed area (OPA-463).

Attempts to bootleg gasoline in the Eastern rationing area will be as difficult as those to evade State gasoline revenue laws (OPA-477).

Appeals by pleasure-boat owners in East Coast waters for increased rations of gasoline on grounds that their present meager fuel allowances virtually deny them use of their vessels were rejected (OPA-474).

## GENERAL MAXIMUM PRICE REGULATION

The bedding industry and bedding dealers were warned to discontinue immediately the practice of combination sales which compel a purchaser to buy unwanted merchandise in order to obtain an article he could have purchased separately in March (OPA-428).

Laundries are permitted under existing price regulations to drop "week-end discounts" for washing picked up on Thursdays, Fridays, or other special days. However, week-end discounts for cash-and-carry customers must be continued (OPA-437).

Retailers and wholesalers who determine maximum prices under section 3(a) of the General Maximum Price Regulation were given a modified form for reporting these ceilings (OPA-410).

Date on which ceilings apply to charges for stevedoring and carloading and unloading when performed under a contract with any war procurement agency have been extended until September 1. (OPA-456).

MERCHANTS and others selling beverages in paper containers were warned to discontinue the recent practice of charging consumers a separate price for these cups, if no charge was made for them during March (T-657).

OPA extended the life of two temporary regulations governing the procedure for adjustment of certain abnormal maximum prices from August 1 to September 1 in order to provide adequate time for drafting and issuing permanent procedural regulations (OPA-T-27).

Compliance with all applicable price regulations is required by licenses granted wholesalers and retailers selling commodities or services for which this agency has set ceilings (OPA-433).

OPA exempted specified Government transactions in manila cordage from provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation. This was done in order to aid a Government war program calling for the purchase of an estimated 10,000,000 pounds of manila rope and cable held by approximately 6,000 wholesalers and 44,000 retailers throughout the country (OPA-444).

Packing houses selling second cut and stump end of sheep and lamb intestines in an unclean state, which did not have established prices for this product in March 1942 must determine their maximum prices by the provisions of the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-T-34).

In cases where the recently enacted New York State law setting maximum wholesale discounts for liquor come into conflict with the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-472).

All distributors selling chemicals or drugs covered by specific price regulations were licensed through Supplementary Order No. 11 to the General Maximum Price Regulation (OPA-T-30).

